

**THE CONVENTION.**—It is with no little pleasure that we refer the readers of the Bulletin to the call, which will be found on the fourth page of this issue, for a convention of the people, to take place in Nashville on the 16th of April next. It is signed by the Conservative members of both houses of the Legislature, and should be responded to with a determination worthy of the cause of justice and right. Let us lose no time in selecting a delegate, and let him be one who has the brains and intelligence to represent the sentiment of old Hardeman as it should be. Organization, thorough and complete, is what we need, what we must have, if we ever hope to crush the chattering knaves who sit in state and rob the outraged and insulted masses of our once grand old commonwealth. We suggest that the people of this county meet at the Court house, on the first Monday in April—Quarterly Court day—and select some suitable person to represent them in the State Convention.

**IMPORTANT.**—A telegram, dated Nashville, March 21, says:

"The Supreme Court of Tennessee will render a decision to-day on the cases involving the constitutionality of the State Franchise law."

Impatiently we wait for the decision, and when we do receive it, will lose no time in placing it in the hands of our readers, all of whom we can almost confidently assure that its tone and essential points will be in keeping with their wishes, the law, and the constitutional rights bequeathed to the children of a band of heroes who endured the dangers and hardships of a seven years' war. From information obtained while we were in Memphis, during the middle of the present week, we are led to believe that the franchise law has certainly been declared utterly void.

**THE FLOODS.**—For days past newspaper readers have seen accounts from various portions of the country, chronicling great loss of life and property by the high water which has prevailed in the principal tributaries of the Mississippi river, but an accurate idea cannot be formed of the dread reality of the case without one should stand upon the hills near one of the many ill-fated streams and be an eye witness to the foaming and drift-covered waters that are rushing along and carrying destruction throughout the valleys. While in Memphis during the past week, we gathered information from parties who had been driven from their homes, and who told us that the Mississippi river, from Cairo to Vicksburg, was changed into a monster inland sea, and that the bottom lands, from the hills on the east to the highlands on the west, were all under water. Thousands upon thousands of valuable stock, houses, and in many cases human life had been swept away. Great fears are entertained that the flood now prevailing will not subside before the spring rise in the Missouri comes down, in which case it will be impossible to till a farm on either side of the Mississippi between the points mentioned above. At Memphis the water is forty miles wide, and in many places, between that point and Madison, Ark., stands to the height of twenty feet over the bottom lands. No estimate can be formed of the loss already sustained, as the waters rose so fast that people who lived a distance from the highlands were unable to remove any of their household effects, or drive cattle to points of safety. A gentleman from Madison told us that Crowley's Ridge was the remaining ground of myriads of bear, deer, and wild game of every species familiar to the great swamps and bottom lands, all of which were compelled to leave their old haunts by the merciless flood. At this time Bolivar, Miss., is the only landing between Memphis and Vicksburg.

**A WORD TO OUR COUNTY COURT.**—We believe we speak the sentiments of the masses of the people of this county when we say that the new Court-house should be built as soon as possible, and that, too, in a substantial manner. The plan selected by the commissioners is an improvement upon any one in the State, is beautiful in its proportions, and will amply accommodate the entire business of the county. Would it not be well for the work to be put through at once? We hear that the structure can be completed by the first of next January, provided the means are furnished the contractors as the work progresses. If the payment is to be made only as the Court-house tax is collected, it will be two or three years before the records of the county, worth hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars, can be placed in position for safe keeping. The old log hut in which they are now exposed is a rickety shanty at best, and one little match in the hands of a careless child or evil disposed person might be the means of reducing them to ashes in a few moments. No one will say that a Court-house is not needed, and no one is foolish enough to desire its erection deferred. We do hope that the court will see that steps are taken to build the Court-house, and that, too, at an early day. If they do this they will receive the thanks of this community, and do an act of justice to every man who has a valuable paper filed away in the old rookery called the "court-room."

**MAN KILLED.**—On last Monday, in La Grange, Fayette county, a dreadful deed of blood was enacted. It seems that Mr. William Southern, lawful constable, had arrested a man, whose name we have forgotten, for a breach of the corporate law, and that while the officer had the offender in charge, a young fellow named Hill, companion and friend of the arrested party, became enraged, drew a pistol, and shot the officer of the law, producing a wound which caused almost instant death. As Hill, who is not more than 20 or 21 years of age, was arrested and placed in jail at Somerville, and will have to answer the charge of murder before the proper court, we forbear any comments, though we have heard that the deed was unprovoked.

The port collector of Detroit is after the fashionables of that city for smuggling clothing purchased in Canada.

**THREATENING.**—From the following article, taken from the Nashville Press and Times, it will be seen that the Radicals of this State are hounding on another war. Men should not fold their hands and shut their eyes when such threats are being made. As we have said weeks ago, the future is dark and permanent peace is far removed from our doors.

**ARMS FOR TENNESSEE.**—Senator Fowler called up the joint resolution in the Senate on the 19th inst., directing the Secretary of War to furnish Governor Brownlow with arms and equipments for twenty-five thousand militia. The resolution was promptly passed. The Radicals in this State may infer from this action of Congress, what is in store for them if they persist in their infamous plotting and warfare against the peace of society, and the present State Government. Both men and arms will come freely from the North to quell the turbulent rebel Democracy. Governor Brownlow will be gloriously sustained. He goes up as a ally as Andy Johnson goes down.

Judge Comstock, of New York, formerly a prominent Republican, has written a letter in regard to the military reconstruction scheme of Congress. He declares that in wiping out the governments of the Southern States, the Radicals leave the question of slavery as it stood at the close of the war, for its abolition and its future prohibition were accomplished through the sanction of the States whose governments are now declared to have been, since the war, illegal. The Judge recommends the Southern States to pursue a policy of masterly inactivity, and trust to the returning reason of the North for the restoration of the republican liberty which the bill denies. He says the Radical party cannot maintain themselves on a platform in direct conflict with the constitution, and he recommends the South to take no hand in overthrowing that instrument.

In the Senate of the United States on Friday, Mr. Sherman introduced a joint resolution to remove the disability to hold office from Robert M. Patton, of Alabama, and Joseph E. Brown, of Georgia, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. This is a clear offer of a bribe to other public men in the South to pursue the course opened up by the apostasy of Patton and Brown. It will be recollected that the third section of the Constitutional Amendment leaves it within the discretion of Congress to except from its disabilities any whom it may see fit. It is with this power that Congress expects to win to its support the aspirants for place who love office more than country.

The Supreme Court of Alabama, has decided that where a horse, the property of a non-combatant, was taken by the army of the United States; was abandoned by them and left on the plaintiff's premises, and was afterwards regained by the owner, the plaintiff cannot recover him from the owner, by action at law, without showing that the seizure by the army was authorized by the laws of nations, as recognized by the published general orders for the regulation of the United States army.

**BAD.**—Memphis is full of bold, bad characters, and the pistol is brought into fatal use there as often as the sun comes and goes. Hardly a day passes but what some unprepared soul is hurled through the gates of eternity by the murderer's bloody hand. On Tuesday night a young man named Ferguson was assassinated on Washington street, the night following a man by the name of Waters was killed on Jefferson, and on Thursday night another deed of blood was committed.

**THANKS.**—Hon. John W. Leftwich will please accept our thanks for a copy of the great speech made by Senator Doolittle, of Wisconsin, in vindication of his course, and against the establishment of military despotism in the Southern States, which was delivered in the Senate on the 16th of last month. It is one of the greatest and best efforts of the Honorable Senator's public career, and long after the supporters of the infamous bill have passed from view it will stand upon the pages of history as a monument to its author's genius and solid arguments.

**MUD.**—Memphis is beautiful in fact it can be only compared to ten thousand of the filthiest pig sty to be found in the filthiest bogs on earth. There is not a street in the city but what is in an almost impossible condition, in consequence of which trade of all kinds has suffered to a great extent.

**No Hope.** It has been stated that Judge Sharkey, now in Washington, is about to apply for an injunction to suspend the operations of the military bill. Hon. W. P. Harris, an eminent jurist of Mississippi, is hopeless of any redress through the Supreme Court. In a recent letter he says:

As the propriety of seeking redress in the Supreme Court has been suggested in some quarters, I take the occasion to say there is no power in the Supreme Court at the instance of the State to prevent the law from taking effect. I do not see how the State government can make a case for judicial action, which can only be invoked in controversies about property rights, or at least rights and questions which are not purely political. The power of recognizing the existence of a State government has, by that court, been held to be a political and not a judicial question—and to pertain to Congress; and although a controversy may arise in which that court may be called on to decide the validity of some of the powers conferred on the military commanders, it is a matter of grave doubt whether it will ever venture to declare the political status of the existing government here, or any that may hereafter succeed it, and should the court venture hereafter to do so, its decision would not be respected, and it would have no power to enforce it.

**THE COUNTRY EDITOR.**—A country editor is an individual who reads newspapers, writes articles on any subject, sets type, reads proof, folds and mails papers, prints jobs, runs errands, saws wood, works in the garden, talks to all who call, receives blame for a hundred things which are no one's business but his own, works from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., and frequently gets cheated out of half his earnings.

**One Jim Adair,** a freedman, near Union Springs, stole a musket a few days ago, and shot another negro, through the stomach, on a charge of having stolen some flour from him. The Union Springs Times says that the fourth killing of a "nigger by nigger in that community." The murderer has been arrested.

**NEW ORLEANS RIOTS.**—Mr. Boyer, from the select committee on the New Orleans riots, has submitted a minority report from which we take the following general conclusions as drawn up by that portion of the committee which he represents.

1. The riot of the 30th of July was a local disturbance, originating in local circumstances of great provocation, and in no wise the result of any hostility or dissatisfaction on the part of the community of New Orleans towards the federal government. It was not in any just or fair sense of the term a vestige or outcrop of the rebellion, nor can it be said to be any indication, even in the remotest degree, of a disposition on the part of the people of the city of New Orleans or of the State of Louisiana to renew hostilities in any form with the established authorities, either State or Federal.

2. It would be a monstrous injustice to hold the whole people of the State of Louisiana accountable for the acts of those engaged in a riot confined to a small portion of the city of New Orleans; and for that cause to abrogate by act of Congress the civil government of that State, now in peaceful and successful operation, would be an usurpation of power not warranted by the principles of free government.

3. The riot was provoked by the incendiary speeches, revolutionary acts and threatened violence of the conventionists; such as under similar circumstances would probably have led to a riot in any city in the Union. To provoke an attack on the colored population, which was expected to be suppressed by the military before it had seriously endangered the white leaders, appears to have been part of the scheme of the conventionists. This would afford an excuse for congressional investigation, resulting in congressional legislation, favoring the ultimate design of the conspirators, viz., the destruction of the existing civil government of Louisiana.

4. As respects that part of the resolution of the House which makes it a subject of investigation by the committee "whether and to what extent these acts were participated in by members of the organization claiming to be the government of Louisiana," no proper sense of the term, and in no degree whatever, is the riot of the 30th of July attributable to the government of Louisiana. If there be any members of the government of Louisiana in whose official or personal acts the remote causes of the riot are to be traced, the chief among them are Judge R. K. Howell, who, as the usurping president of the Convention, presided over the convention, headed the conspiracy to overthrow the State constitution, which, as a judge of the supreme court, he had sworn to support, and Governor J. Madison Wells, who lent to the conspiracy his official sanction, but on the day of danger deserted his post without an effort to preserve the public order. And if there be any members of the federal government who are indirectly responsible for the bloody result, they are those members of the present Congress, whoever they may be, who encouraged these men by their countenance and promises to them their individual and official support.

B. M. BOYER

**"Down Among the Dead Men."** In connection with the recent startling accident at Regent's Park, London, late London papers give the operations of the divers who were employed to recover the remains of the dead.

The diver first removed his shoes, and then drew on two pairs of long white woolen stockings, reaching nearly to his hips, and pulled a thick shirt of corresponding material over his shoulders and all his ordinary clothes. Flannel knee breeches kept the other garments comfortably together, and the addition of a red, high cap, doubled, completed the likeness to one of the white-jacketed sailors that figure largely in Dutch pictures. The diving dress proper was next procured. Take two of the stoutest water proof capes, and sew a sheet of India rubber between—that is the material, draw it on like a sack for running races in, save that each leg has its own separate pouch to fit into, instead of one common sack for both feet, and that is the shape. Heavy boots, with substantial soles of lead, complete the equipment of the diver. The shoes, of course, must be securely cased. Round what would be in the parallel case the mouth of the sack, and what in this instance forms the neck of the diving dress, there are a number of brass studs, upon which, with the aid of screws, fit brass plates that the divers, and eventually a curious, about half the length, back and front, of those in use among the household troops. This curious device in the whole of the upper part of the body as far as the neck, which is left exposed, very much assist the diver in the water, to be guillotined—an impression which, if possible, strengthened during the subsequent screwing on of the gigantic head piece. One can imagine that it must have formed an anxious study to the original diving dress-maker how to load the hands and arms free, and yet prevent the water entering at those extremities. In the present day the difficulty is surmounted by terminating the sleeves of the diving dress with stout cuffs of vulcanized India rubber, tapered to a point. Two men, the efforts of two men to assist in pulling open the cuffs and the wearer thrusting his arm forward as if he was delivering a knock down blow, before the hands can be got through, one at a time. A belt round the waist, with a stout knife in a leather sheath, a line to attach to the ladder when he goes down, so that he may know the point from which he started, and no calculation the distance traveled, two fifty pound weights fastened to his shoulders, another line looped around his body, and called the "up line," with which to signal to those above, or in case of urgent need to be pulled up, and the diver's equipment is complete in all important essentials but one. Till the last moment the glass plate in front of his mouth is not inserted, and the pumping apparatus must be in regular action before the plate is screwed home. Then the diver steps on to his ladder, one of his comrades reaches him from head to heel to see if he is all right, gives a friendly pat of dismissal on the helmet—a piece of diving freemasonry never omitted—and down he goes. Nothing but the faint sighing noise has been heard from the air pump until the helmet reaches the surface of the water, and then a rush and bubbling strikes the ear, and the surface of the water in a limited circle leaps and dances as if some large fish were sporting about near the top of the water. At helmet at first, as bright as silver, seems, as it sinks, to become oxidized, and grows darker and darker in color until it gradually recedes from sight, although whenever the surface of the water was not covered with ice, the track of the diver could be traced by the bubbling, and even where the ice was thin the air could be seen endeavoring to escape in large milk white globules. As the man plodded about, now with his helmet close to or above the surface, and now, from the length of line, either close to the bottom, or at a distance of forty or fifty feet from the punt, some pardonable uneasiness was felt by many persons on his account, remembering that with all his harness on he carried close to two hundred pounds weight, and that the bottom of the lake was overlaid with thick soft mud. It was explained, however, that the diver had at his command three modes of escape from any difficulty down below. He could either climb the rope and be hauled up, or he could signal to those above to pull him up by the life line. There were three divers, who each went down in turn, remaining below from twelve to twenty-five minutes at a time, and in the first instance explored thor-

oughly that portion of the ornamental water where the great mass of persons was seen to go down. The result of their investigations showed the cause with which this spot had been swept by the drags, only a single body being recovered by the divers. On the other hand, the minuteness of the search made by these men themselves, was proved by their bringing up hatchets, hammers, a large wooden mallet, and a piece of iron wire dropped out of different boats in the course of the previous days' ice breaking. They also found, at some distance from each other, two pairs of skates, perfectly new, and strapped together, suggesting that the owner had dropped them in running away. The divers were, of course, anxiously questioned as to the state of things below. They described the bottom as composed of soft, yielding, black mud—as indeed was plainly to be seen from their boots and clothing when they came up to the surface—and into this they sometimes stood to their knees, and sometimes deeper. Except where the water was very shallow they could see nothing—"it was like being in a dark room;" but the men did not complain of the temperature. In fact, on coming to the surface, and being exposed while resting for a few minutes to the cutting northeast wind, one of them told his companion to "screw him up again and let him be off, for it was warmer down below."

**Latest From Chattanooga.** A party of gentlemen reached here from Anderson yesterday, who had been detained at Chattanooga for several days. They were upon the last train from the southward that reached that ill-fated city before it was isolated by the flood. They put up at the Crutched House, and the next morning found themselves surrounded by water, which continued to rise until Monday, when it reached its acme. The water was then within thirteen inches of the second floor. Sunday they had nothing to eat until late in the afternoon, when some bread was obtained from the bunnies. All the business portion of the city was submerged, and the lighter structures were swept away, a few solid buildings here and there indicating the location of streets. The current bearing on the Crutched House was very strong—estimated at about nine miles per hour. A large portion of the population are camped out upon the side, of the ridge, the houses above the level of the flood not affording accommodation for half of the houseless. All manner of contrivances for shelter may be seen—even blankets stretched over fence corners in yards where fences still remain, the most of these structures having been burned for firewood. Stealing, plundering and rioting prevailed until martial law was proclaimed.

Government officials are doing their utmost to save such property as was too heavy to be swept away, and private individuals are exhibiting praiseworthy energy in trying to secure such of their valuables as have not been destroyed.

The party to whom we are indebted for our information took steamer from the scene of the Crutched House on Monday, and proceeded to Bridgeport. Here they learned that the portion of the bridge there which was swept away a few days previous had stranded on an island eighty miles below, and that the heroic watchman, Kirkpatrick, was picked up safe, having clung to the wreck of his wayward voyage. He takes the affair very lightly, and said when rescued by the steamer Kingston, that he wasn't sure he ought to abandon his portion of the bridge, as he was paid by the month for guarding it, and he always liked to do his duty.—*Nashville Gazette*, 16th.

The Ripley Advertiser of the 16th, printed at Ripley, Tipton county, Miss., in referring to the Circuit Court then in session at that place, says:

This court is still in session at this place. The State docket was taken up on Monday last, and several cases have been disposed of. One of the most important, that of the State vs. S. Smith, charged with murder, occupied Tuesday and Wednesday, and resulted in a verdict by the jury of "not guilty." The case of Hancock vs. Maxwell, an important suit involving some \$25,000, was up yesterday, but we learn it has been continued. The court will probably adjourn to-day.

Taylor, McBain & Co., of Chicago, have been awarded the contract by the City Council of Memphis to pave several principal streets with the Nicholson pavement, at a contract of \$2,000,000.

Advices from East Tennessee state that the damage by the flood is over \$2,000,000. The trains are now running from Knoxville to Chattanooga. There were several lives lost, and many families left homeless, who must suffer. The rivers are still high, and more ruin is falling. There has been no mail from the Northwest since the 4th of March.

The Irish enthusiasm has all subsided, and the late rebellion in Ireland is conceded to have been a disgraceful failure. The Canadian invasion seems, however, to be determined upon.

**What Makes a Bushel.**—The following table of the number of pounds of various articles to a bushel, may be of interest to our readers.

Wheat 60, corn shelled 56, corn on the cob 70, rye 56, oats 56, barley 40, buckwheat 56, Irish potatoes 60, sweet potatoes 50, onions 57, beans 60, bran 20, clover seed 60, Timothy seed 45, hemp seed 45, blue grass seed 14, dried peaches 33.

At a late meeting in Nantucket there were 375 people present over 70 years old, 25 over 80, and 9 over 90. In Nantucket people live until they dry up and are blown away.

In London a large bill-posting firm has offered the English Government \$80,000 in gold a year for the privilege of using the figure around Hyde Park for advertising purposes. The advertisement is evidence of the effect of advertising on the public, it is said that when a citizen of New York recently advertised for a wife, he received about 1,800 answers from husbands, saying he could have theirs.

**MEMPHIS CITY SAVINGS INSTITUTION.** SUCCESSORS TO OGDEN, TOBEY & CO., MEMPHIS, TENN. (No. 15 Second Street.)

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